(iv) excise duty on compact discs be waived as in the case of prerecorded cassettes in order to deprive manufacturers of pirated CDs of an unfair price advantage;

(v) extending the benefits of Section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to cinema halls and multiplexes set up within the country;

(vi) benefits of new Section 80HHF, announced in the Budget for 1999-2000, to be made applicable to proprietors, individuals etc. engaged in the export of entertainment software as well and with retrospective effect from 01.4.89.

Price hike of Employment News

†ll71. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that price of weekly publications Employment News and Rozgar Samachar has been increased from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 with effect from 6th February, 1999;

(b) Whether it is also a fact that the said weekly is mainly read by the unemployed persons; and

(c) If so, the justification of the said price hike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITELY): (a) Yes.

(b) It is also read by the unemployed youth.

(c) The price has been hiked to offset production cost.

Closure of song and drama division at Manipur

1172. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Song and Drama Division at Manipur is going to be closed;

(b) by when the vacant post of Assistant Director in the Division will be filled up; and

(c) the reasons for keeping the post vacant for so long?

---

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITELY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no vacant post of Assistant Director in the Song and Drama Division at Manipur.

(c) Does not arise.

Functioning of PIB, Imphal

1173. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the PIB, Imphal is not functioning as smoothly as it was before transfer of the then AIO;

(b) the reasons for not filling up the post of AIO; and

(c) the staff strength in the bureau, alongwith the vacancy position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITELY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) An officer has been posted as AIO, Imphal.

(c) PIB, Imphal has a sanctioned strength of 20 posts. At present, only one post, of Information Assistant, is vacant.

Constitution of Punjab Wakf Board

1174. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state.

(a) as to why Government have not constituted Punjab Wakf Board;

(b) whether Government are aware that they have given an assurance to constitute the Board early;

(c) whether Government would constitute the Board within a timeframe; and

(d) how Government will justify their action in terms of Section 99 of the Wakf Act?